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31 December 1962					
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CHINOLLED DISSEM

— COUNTRY CUBA

SUBJECT COMMENTS BY ERNEIDO OLIVA ON THE
ATTITUDES OF THE RECENTLY RELEASED
CUBAN PRISONERS

DATE DISTR. 31 DECEMBER 1962

PRECEDENCE PRIORITY

DATE OF DECEMBER 1962
INFO.

REFERENCES **in** **12013**

PLACE 8 UNITED STATES (28 DECEMBER 1962)

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APPRAISAL 3

SOURCE A COMPETENT OBSERVER (F) FROM ERNESTO OLIVA, SECOND-IN-COMMAND OF THE BRIGADE.

— 1. THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF STATEMENTS MADE BY ERNEIDO OLIVA, SECOND-IN-COMMAND OF THE BRIGADE, FOLLOWING THE RELEASE OF THE BRIGADE PRISONERS:

A. THE BRIGADE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE 29 DECEMBER STADIUM EVENT IN MIAMI AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE ITS OWN STRENGTH AND UNITY AND TO GAUGE THE EXTENT OF APPEAL AND SYMPATHY OF THE EXILE COLONY. HOPEFULLY, THE BRIGADE EXPECTS TO SERVE AS A UNIFYING FORCE OF THE POLITICAL GROUPS AND FRAGMENTS IN THE MIAMI AREA, ALTHOUGH OLIVA STRESSED THE FACT THAT THE BRIGADE DID NOT CONSIDER ITSELF AS A POLITICAL, BUT RATHER A MILITARY GROUP.

B. THE BRIGADE CONTINUES AS THE MILITARY ARM OF THE CONSEJO

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE 1994
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REVOLUCIONARIO CUBANO (CRC, CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL), AT LEAST FOR THE PRESENT, AND LOOKS TOWARD THE CRC FOR MATERIAL ASSISTANCE TO ESTABLISH BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS, ETC. THE LEADERS PLANNED TO "RELEASE" BRIGADE MEMBERS FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF THE 29 DECEMBER EVENT SO THAT THE MEN COULD FIND JOBS, GET REST, AND LOOK AFTER THEIR FAMILIES. THEY ALL KNOW THAT THEY WILL BE SUBJECT TO RECALL WHEN THEIR COUNTRY NEEDS THEM AGAIN. MEANWHILE, THE LEADERS INTEND TO EXAMINE VARIOUS AVENUES FOR A SOLUTION OF THE CUBAN PROBLEM. IF ALL ROADS ARE BLOCKED, THEN THEY WILL RESIGN THEMSELVES TO A SOLUTION OF PERSONAL AND FAMILY SURVIVAL PROBLEMS. NOW, HOWEVER, STILL CONSCIOUS OF THEIR DUTY TO THEIR FATHERLAND, THEY INTEND TO TRY TO FIND A SOLUTION.

C. THE BRIGADE LEADERS' OBSERVATIONS DURING AND FOLLOWING THEIR IMPRISONMENT HAVE LED THEM TO CONCLUDE THAT CLANDESTINE ORGANIZATIONS INSIDE CUBA ARE MINIMAL AND LEADERS TO HEAD A GUERRILLA EFFORT ARE NONEXISTENT. SINCE THE APRIL 1961 INVASION, THE CASTRO FORCES HAVE BEEN INCREASED NUMERICALLY AND HAVE BEEN FURNISHED WITH IMPROVED ARMAMENT.

2. FIELD COMMENT: OLIVA REFERRED TO THE IMPRESSIVE DISPLAY OF CUBAN AIR POWER ON THE DAY THE BRIGADE PRISONERS WERE RELEASED WHEN 20 MIG'S FLEW OVER THE AIRPORT. CONSEQUENTLY, IT IS HIS FIRM CONVICTION THAT THE BRIGADE IS THE ONLY CONVENTIONAL WARFARE MILITARY EFFORT ABLE TO DESTROY THE CASTRO MILITARY MACHINE.

3. FIELD DISSEM: CINCANT, CINCARIB. END OF MESSAGE

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